

## No. 147

## AN ACT

## HB 893

Providing for precautions to be taken in the proximity of high-voltage lines for the prevention of accidents; providing powers of administration and enforcement to the Department of Labor and Industry and prescribing penalties for violations.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.—As used in this act:

“Department” means the Department of Labor and Industry.

“High-voltage lines” means electrical conducting lines, wires or cables having a voltage differential in excess of 750 volts between any pair of conductors or between any conductor and ground.

Section 2. Prohibited Activity.—No employer or supervising agent of an employer shall require or permit an employee to, and no employee shall participate in the erection, maintenance, repair, construction or installation, whether or not such work is for emergency purposes, of high-voltage lines having a voltage differential in excess of nominally 13,200 volts between any pair of conductors or in excess of nominally 7,600 volts between any conductor and ground, unless any and all such conductors are de-energized before such work is commenced, or unless such work is performed on any energized conductor or equipment through approved hot stick methods which do not include handling such high-voltage lines with gloves or bare handed method.

Section 3. Warning Sign Required.—The owner, agent, lessee, bailee, user, or employer responsible for the operations of equipment shall provide such warning signs on equipment or at the work site as may be required by regulations promulgated hereunder. The requirement that warning signs be posted shall not apply to railway equipment operating on railway right-of-way in relation to high-voltage conductors of such railway system under conditions for which exemption is granted under section 7.

Section 4. Notification to Power Company and Responsibility for Safeguards.—Whenever activity is to be performed requiring precautionary action under section 2, the employer, contractor or other person responsible for the activity shall, promptly notify the owner or person in charge of the high-voltage line of the intended activity and shall fully comply with and shall be responsible for the cost and for the completion of the precautionary action required under section 2 before proceeding with such activity.

Section 5. Enforcement.—The department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this act and is hereby empowered to prescribe and promulgate rules and regulations consistent herewith.

Section 6. Penalties.—Any person violating any of the provisions of this act shall be liable to a penalty of \$300 in a summary proceeding. Any violation of the act by an officer, agent or employee shall also be a violation of the act by his employer if such employer had knowledge of and actual control over the cause of such violation. Where the violation is of a continuing nature each day during which it continues, shall constitute an additional, separate and distinct offense.

Section 7. Exceptions.—This act shall not be construed as abrogating any existing collective bargaining agreement.

APPROVED—The 16th day of December, A. D. 1975.

MILTON J. SHAPP